Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An operation method for processing data files, comprising:

(a) displaying for each of one or more data files a reduced-size image/file icon pair, wherein the reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of the one or more data files is displayed on a first area of a display screen, wherein the reduced-size image is for use in identifying the contents of the data file and the corresponding concurrently displayed file icon is spaced from, and has a smaller area than, the reduced-size image, ~~and~~ wherein the display position of the file icon relative to the display position of the reduced-size image is predetermined to be the same for each of the reduced-size image/file icon pairs, and wherein the reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of the one or more data files is displayed so that the reduced-sized image and the corresponding file icon do not overlap;

(b) displaying one or more function icons on a second area of the display screen which is different than the first area of the display screen; and

(c) performing at least either one of the operations of i) selecting a function to be applied to one of the data files and ii) changing a display position of one of the reduced-size images by a drag-and-drop operation on the corresponding file icon, wherein

wherein the reduced-sized image for each reduced-size image/file icon pair is displayed so that each file icon is between its corresponding reduced-size image and the second area of the display screen.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

in step (c), the reduced-size image is fixed at a current position while a drag operation on the file icon is being performed at a predetermined speed or higher; and, when the drag speed is reduced below the predetermined speed, a frame having the size of the reduced size image is displayed.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

in step (c), when the file icon is dropped at a position where no function icon representing a kind of a function to be applied to the data file is displayed, a display position of the corresponding reduced-size image is changed by moving the corresponding reduced-size image to a position at a predetermined interval from a dropped portion of the file icon.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

in step (c), when the file icon has moved to a position more than a predetermined distance apart from the corresponding reduced-size image, an icon return space is displayed at a predetermined fixed interval from the reduced-size image.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 5, wherein:

in step (c), when the file icon is dropped in the icon return space, the file icon is moved back to its original display position without moving the associated reduced-size image.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 5, wherein:

the icon return space is formed in an outstanding pattern.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 5, wherein:

the icon return space is larger in size than the file icon.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

a function icon is displayed with substantially the same size as the file icon when the file icon is displayed.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

a display of one or both of a function icon and an icon return space is changed when the file icon overlaps the function icon when the file icon is dragged.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 5, wherein:

the icon return space is displayed in a different manner than the file icon when the file icon has moved to a position at a predetermined position from an original position.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the file icon is displayed adjacent to a side portion of the reduced-size image for each reduced-size image/file icon pair.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method comprising:

generating a display that comprises a reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of one or more data files, wherein the reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of the one or more data files is displayed on a first area of a display screen, wherein the reduced-size image permits an identification of the contents of the data file and the corresponding concurrently displayed file icon is smaller than, and spaced from, the reduced-sized image, ~~and~~ wherein the display position

of the file icon relative to the display position of the reduced-size image is predetermined to be the same for each of the reduced-size image/file icon pairs, and wherein the reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of the one or more data files is displayed so that the reduced-sized image and the corresponding file icon do not overlap;

moving one of the reduced-sized images from an original display position in response to user inputs supplied via an input device for moving the file icon corresponding to that reduced-size image from an original display position to another display position; and

processing one of the data files in accordance with a function in response to user inputs supplied via the input device for moving the file icon corresponding to that data file from an original display position to a function-invoking position on the display that invokes the function, wherein

the function-invoking position comprises a function icon displayed in a second area of the display screen, and the file icon for each of the reduced-size image/file icon pairs is displayed so that so that each file icon is between its corresponding reduced-size image and the second area of the display screen.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the user inputs for moving the file icon from its original display position to another display position comprise inputs for dragging-and-dropping the file icon.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the reduced-size image is moved from its original position to a position adjacent to the position at which the file icon is dropped.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 13, further comprising:

displaying a file icon return space when the file icon corresponding to one of the data files is moved more than a predetermined distance from its corresponding reduced-size image.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, further comprising:

returning the file icon back to its original display position if the file icon is moved to the file icon return space.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein the file icon return space has a larger area than the file icon.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein a frame representing the reduced-size image moves with the file icon corresponding to one of data files if the file icon is moved at a speed less than a predetermined speed and the reduced-size image remains in its original position if the file icon is moved at a speed greater than the predetermined speed.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the user inputs for moving the file icon to the function-invoking position comprise inputs for dragging-and-dropping the file icon onto the function icon.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein the function icon has substantially the same size as the file icons.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the function in accordance with which the data file is processed is selected from the group consisting of a printing function, a facsimile function, and an e-mail function.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): An image processing system comprising:

a user input device; and

a processing system for generating a display that comprises a reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of one or more data files, wherein the reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of the one or more data files is displayed on a first area of a display screen, wherein the reduced-size image permits an identification of the contents of the data file and the corresponding concurrently displayed file icon is smaller than, and spaced from, the reduced-size image, ~~and~~ wherein the display position of the file icon relative to the display position of the reduced-size image is predetermined to be the same for each of the reduced-size image/file icon pairs, and wherein the reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of the one or more data files is displayed so that the reduced-sized image and the corresponding file icon do not overlap;

wherein the processing system moves one of the reduced-sized images from an original display position in response to user inputs supplied via the input device for moving the file icon corresponding to that reduced-size image from an original display position to another display position,

wherein the processing system processes one of the data files in accordance with a function in response to user inputs supplied via the input device for moving the file icon corresponding to that data file from an original display position to a function-invoking position on the display that invokes the function, and

wherein the function-invoking position comprises a function icon displayed in a second area of the display screen, and the file icon for each of the reduced-size image/file icon pairs is displayed so that so that each file icon is between its corresponding reduced-size image and the second area of the display screen.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A storage device for storing executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

generating a display comprising a reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of a plurality of data files, wherein the reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of the one or more data files is displayed on a first area of a display screen, wherein the reduced-size image for each data file permits an identification of the contents of the data file and the file icon for each data file is smaller than, and spaced from, the reduced-sized image to which the file icon corresponds, ~~and~~ wherein the display position of the file icon relative to the display position of the reduced-size

image is predetermined to be the same for each of the reduced-size image/file icon pairs, and wherein the reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of the one or more data files is displayed so that the reduced-sized image and the corresponding file icon do not overlap;

moving one of the reduced-sized images from an original display position in response to user inputs supplied via an input device for moving the file icon corresponding to that reduced-size image from an original display position to another display position; and

processing one of the data files in accordance with a function in response to user inputs supplied via the input device for moving the file icon corresponding to that data file from an original display position to a function-invoking position on the display that invokes the function,

wherein the function-invoking position comprises a function icon displayed in a second area of the display screen, and the file icon for each of the reduced-size image/file icon pairs is displayed so that so that each file icon is between its corresponding reduced-size image and the second area of the display screen.

Claims 26-30 (Canceled).

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 1, wherein the operation performed is selecting a function to be applied to one of the data files.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): A method comprising:

generating a display that comprises a reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of one or more data files, wherein the reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of the one or more data files is displayed on a first area of a display screen, wherein the reduced-size image permits an identification of the contents of the data file and the corresponding concurrently displayed file icon is smaller than, and spaced from, the reduced-sized image, ~~and~~ wherein the display position of the file icon relative to the display position of the reduced-size image is predetermined to be the same for each of the reduced-size image/file icon pairs, and wherein the reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of the one or more data files is displayed so that the reduced-sized image and the corresponding file icon do not overlap; and

processing one of the data files in accordance with a function in response to user inputs supplied via the input device for moving the file icon corresponding to that data file from an original display position to a function-invoking position on the display that invokes the function, wherein

the function-invoking position comprises a function icon displayed in a second area of the display screen, and the file icon for each of the reduced-size image/file icon pairs is displayed so that so that each file icon is between its corresponding reduced-size image and the second area of the display screen.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 32, wherein the function icon and the file icons are substantially the same size.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): An image processing system comprising:

a user input device; and

a processing system for generating a display that comprises a reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of one or more data files, wherein the reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of the one or more data files is displayed on a first area of a display screen, wherein the reduced-size image permits an identification of the contents of the data file and the corresponding concurrently displayed file icon is smaller than, and spaced from, the reduced-size image, ~~and~~ wherein the display position of the file icon relative to the display position of the reduced-size image is predetermined to be the same for each of the reduced-size image/file icon pairs, and wherein the reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of the one or more data files is displayed so that the reduced-sized image and the corresponding file icon do not overlap;

wherein the processing system processes one of the data files in accordance with a function in response to user inputs supplied via the input device for moving the file icon corresponding to that data file from an original display position to a function-invoking position on the display that invokes the function, and

wherein the function-invoking position comprises a function icon displayed in a second area of the display screen, and the file icon for each of the reduced-size image/file icon pairs is

displayed so that so that each file icon is between its corresponding reduced-size image and the second area of the display screen.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 34, wherein the function icon and the file icons are substantially the same size.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): A storage device for storing executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

generating a display comprising a reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of a plurality of data files, wherein the reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of the one or more data files is displayed on a first area of a display screen, wherein the reduced-size image for each data file permits an identification of the contents of the data file and the file icon for each data file is smaller than, and spaced from, the reduced-sized image to which the file icon corresponds, ~~and~~ wherein the display position of the file icon relative to the display position of the reduced-size image is predetermined to be the same for each of the reduced-size image/file icon pairs, and wherein the reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of the one or more data files is displayed so that the reduced-sized image and the corresponding file icon do not overlap; and

processing one of the data files in accordance with a function in response to user inputs supplied via the input device for moving the file icon corresponding to that data file from an original display position to a function-invoking position on the display that invokes the function,

wherein the function-invoking position comprises a function icon displayed in a second area of the display screen, and the file icon for each of the reduced-size image/file icon pairs is displayed so that so that each file icon is between its corresponding reduced-size image and the second area of the display screen.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The storage device according to claim 36, wherein the function icon and the file icons are substantially the same size.

Claim 38 (New): The operation method for processing data files as set forth in claim 1, wherein the one or more data files are displayed on a third area of the display screen which is opposite to the second area with the first area therebetween.

Claim 39 (New): The method according to claim 13, wherein the one or more data files are displayed on a third area of the display screen which is opposite to the second area with the first area therebetween.

Claim 40 (New): The image processing system according to claim 24, wherein the one or more data files are displayed on a third area of the display screen which is opposite to the second area with the first area therebetween.

Claim 41 (New): The storage device according to claim 25, wherein the one or more data files are displayed on a third area of the display screen which is opposite to the second area with the first area therebetween.

Claim 42 (New): An image processing system comprising:

a user input device; and

a processing system for generating a display for a first area of a display screen, a second area of the display screen and a third area of the display screen between the first and second areas, wherein the first area of the display screen comprises a display of icons for one or more data files, wherein the second area of the display screen comprises a display of a reduced-size image/file icon pair for each of one or more of the data files and the reduced-size image permits an identification of the contents of the data file and its corresponding concurrently displayed file icon is smaller than, and spaced from, the reduced-size image, and wherein the third area of the display screen comprises one or more function icons whose corresponding function is invoked by dropping one of the file icons thereon,

wherein the file icon for a corresponding reduced-size image is displayed even if that reduced-size image does not overlap any other reduced-size image, and

wherein the file icon for each of the reduced-size image/file icon pairs is displayed so that each file icon is between its corresponding reduced-size image and the function icons in the third area of the display screen.